

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 250014Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4250

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY

SUBJ: UNFICYP REDUCTIONS

REF: STATE 108140

1. WE HAD THOROUGH REVIEW WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS LIU AND SHERRY MAY 24 OF US POSITION REGARDING FURTHER UNFICYP REDUCTIONS. WE LEFT BOUT DE PAPIER INCORPORATING EXCELLENT RECAPITULATION OF US POLICY CONTAINED IN PARAS 3-6 REFTTEL, AND WERE ASSURED IT WOULD RECEIVE WIDE DISTRIBUTION IN SECRETARIAT AND FIELD.

2. ON QUESTION WHETHER FURTHER CUTS WOULD REQUIRE CHANGE IN MANDATE, SECRETARIAT CLEARLY HAS NOT REACHED FIRM DECISION. IT
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OBVIOUSLY BELIEVES SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD SHOULDER SOME OF

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHANGING UNFICYP TO AN OBSERVER FORCE (AS USYG'S GUYER AND URQUHART PREVIOUSLY TOLD US) BUT HASN'T QUITE DECIDED HOW THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. US POINTS ON FLEXIBILITY OF MANDATE ARE PERFECTLY WELL UNDERSTOOD HERE THOUGH, AS NICOSIA INDICATES, UNFICYP AND SOME TROOP CONTRIBUTORS FIND IT CONVENIENT NOT TO READ THE MANDATE. WHAT SYG IS SAYING IS THAT IF COUNCIL WISHES TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY THE NATURE OF THE FORCE (AND TAKING AWAY ITS WEAPONS IS SUCH A CHANGE), IT SHOULD SO INFORM HIM.

3. LIU GAVE US ADVANCE COPY OF SYG'S REPORT ON UNFICYP WHICH, THOUGH DATED MAY 22, WILL BE CIRCULATED EARLY NEXT WEEK. IT DOES NOT CLOSE DOOR TO FURTHER REDUCTIONS. KEY PARA (79) FOLLOWS (REPORT BEING POUCHED DEPT AND NICOSIA).

4. QUOTE THE REDUCTION OF UNFICYP HAS SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATED THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM FACING UNFICYP BUT HAS NOT SOLVED IT. THE DEFICIT OF THE UNFICYP BUDGET WILL REMAIN SUBSTANTIAL UNLESS AND UNTIL ADEQUATE ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FORTHCOMING. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOME MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING THE LARGEST FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE CYPRUS OPERATION, HAVE EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT FURTHER REDUCTIONS OF THE FORCE BE CONSIDERED. AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING ALL OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED, MY VIEW IS THAT A FURTHER REDUCTION WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE. DESPITE THE PRESENT QUIET, THE SITUATION IN THE ISLAND IS STILL TENSE AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS EVEN ABOUT THE REDUCTIONS RECENTLY CARRIED OUT. ALTHOUGH I FULLY SHARE THE CONCERN FOR REDUCING UNFICYP AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO ALLOW TIME FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF THOSE REDUCTIONS BEFORE MAKING FURTHER MOVES IN THAT DIRECTION. UNQUOTE
FERGUSON

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